

CLAIMS:

1. A receiver for receiving digital television signals transmitted in a plurality of channels each comprising video data and information data the receiver comprising:

5 a decoder circuit operable on one selected channel for separating in the one channel the information data and the video data and converting the video data into signals for output for a television;

 a store for storing information data;

 a viewer operable control device; and

10 a processor connected to receive the information data from the decoder circuit and/or the store, the processor being arranged to respond to viewer operation of the control device by processing selected information data to convert the same into signals representative thereof for output for a television in combination with the video signals.

- 15 2. A receiver as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information data in each channel comprises brief programme scheduling information for plural channels, which scheduling information data is carried in each channel at closely spaced intervals or substantially continuously.

- 20 3. A receiver as claimed in claim 2, wherein the decoder and the processor are arranged to respond to view manipulation of the control device by outputting for a television signals representing video and selected information for another channel, the processor being arranged to respond to further viewer manipulation of the control device by varying the information represented by the output signals.

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4. A receiver as claimed in claim 3, wherein the selected information comprises current scheduling information for programmes in the channel presently received by the decoder, and the processor is arranged to respond to said further manipulation by outputting signals representing scheduling information at a different time in the present channel.

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5. A receiver as claimed in claim 3, wherein the selected information comprises current scheduling information for programmes in another channel different than the channel

presently received by the decoder, and the processor is arranged to respond to said further manipulation by outputting signals representing scheduling information at a different time in the other channel.

- 5 6. A receiver as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information data comprises detailed programme scheduling information for plural channels, which scheduling information data is carried occasionally by each channel, and the decoder is arranged to store the detailed scheduling data in the store.
- 10 7. A receiver as claimed in claim 6, wherein the processor is arranged to respond to viewer manipulation of the control device by processing data from the store to derive therefrom signals representing selected detailed information in selected channels for output to a television.
- 15 8. A receiver as claimed in claim 7, wherein the processor is arranged to respond to further viewer manipulation of the control device by storing for a selected programme in the channels viewing data to enable the programme to be viewed when video data therefor is transmitted in a channel at a scheduled time.
- 20 9. A receiver as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of the plurality of channels comprises video and information data for a plurality of video clips which video clips each represent a respective programme available or to be made available for viewing.
- 25 10. A receiver as claimed in claim 9, wherein the decoder is arranged to output signals representing the plural video clips for simultaneous display in respective portions of a television screen, and the processor is arranged to respond to viewer manipulation of the control device by storing for a selected video clip viewing data to enable the programme to which the selected clip relates to be viewed when video data therefor is transmitted in a channel at a scheduled time.
- 30 11. A receiver as claimed in claim 9, wherein the decoder is arranged to respond to viewer manipulation of the control device by outputting signals representing a selected one of

the video clips for display on the television screen, and the processor is arranged to respond to said viewer manipulation by processing the information data and outputting signals representing scheduling information for the selected clip.

- 5 12. A receiver as claimed in claim 11, wherein the processor is arranged to respond to further viewer manipulation of the control device by storing viewing data to enable the programme represented by the clip to be viewed when video data therefore is transmitted in a channel at a scheduled time.
- 10 13. A receiver as claimed in claim 8, wherein the processor is arranged to store the viewing data in the store in such a manner as to enable custom channel data to be defined, the decoder and the processor being arranged to operate according to the custom channel data depending on viewer manipulation of the control device.
- 15 14. A receiver as claimed in of claim 1, further comprising a modem interface or a model to enable the processor to transmit and receive signals via a telephone line, the processor being arranged to output signals to the modem for transmission depending on received information data and user manipulation of the control device.
- 20 15. A receiver as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an identifying device containing unique identity data to enable the receiver to be uniquely identified, and wherein the information data in the channels comprises message data for a receiver of a specified identity, and the processor is arranged to respond to the message data depending on the identity data in the identifying device by storing the message data in the store and
25 converting the same into signals representing a message for output for a television.
16. A receiver as claimed in of claim 1, wherein the information data comprises updating data which is transmitted occasionally for use by the processor.
- 30 17. A receiver as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a CD-ROM drive for reading a CD containing updating data for use by the processor.

18. A receiver as claimed in claim 16, wherein said updating data comprises data defining new applications to be executed by the processor.
19. A receiver as claimed in claim 16, wherein said updating data comprises template data
5 for use by the processor in defining the format in which information is represented by the signals output for a television.
20. A receiver as claimed in claim 1, wherein the viewer operable control device comprises a remote control device.
- 10 21. A receiver as claimed in claim 1 connected to a television.